

inspiration for all those who struggle to overcome social, racial and economic injustice.

PATSY MINK will forever be remembered as a modern day pioneer of gender and racial equality in government. Throughout her distinguished career, PATSY continually overcame insurmountable obstacles to achieve success and acceptance in her professional and political career. In Hawaii, she became the first Asian-American woman to practice law and the first Asian-American woman to be elected to the Territorial House before Hawaii became a state in 1959. While serving in the Territorial House, she became one of the leading advocates for Hawaii's statehood. In 1964, she had the honor of becoming the first Asian-American woman of Japanese-American heritage to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

During her tenure, Congresswoman MINK became a leading advocate for racial, gender and social equality. Inspired by her lifelong challenges, Congresswoman MINK fought for women to have equal access to education and athletic opportunities. Thanks to her leadership and steadfast commitment, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 helped dismantle gender discrimination in schools across this country. In order to preserve and protect her beloved state of Hawaii, Congresswoman MINK also helped write tough environmental protection laws safeguarding sacred lands and fragile waters from over development and exploitation.

I feel absolutely privileged to have served with this historic and wonderful woman. Despite all the obstacles and challenges, PATSY MINK was still able to achieve her dreams and goals. Her perseverance and determination should continue to be an inspiration for future generations of Americans. I will forever admire my friend and colleague for her lifelong commitment and service to her country. Although it is difficult to say goodbye to my colleague, I know that her profound contributions and legacy will continue to influence our nation's future.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION THAT EXPANDS THE DEFINITION OF CHARITABLE WORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that would allow certain computer services to be counted as charitable deductions.

Many small non-profit organizations have not utilized all the technical advances that computers can bring, because of the cost of hiring a networking and technology specialist. My bill would allow computer technologists to donate their time and deduct that time from their federal taxes. Some of the services that would be tax deductible include setting up networks, fixing computers, training staff and creating custom programs. My legislation would assist small non-profits in becoming more efficient and productive, by utilizing new skills, software, and hardware.

My bill would also allow computer graphic specialists to donate their time and knowledge for the creation of brochures, the design of

websites, and preparation of printing films. Once again, non-profits would gain substantially from having computer professional graphic artists design their education and information pamphlets.

Non-profit and charitable organizations do great work in the community, and my bill would give them better access to services that will help them help others.

HONORING JIM WHITTINGTON, MSGT USAF, RETIRED

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the news that my good friend, Jim Whittington, of Laurel MS, has been given the "Excellence in Community Service" Award by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Although he would disagree with me, there is no individual more deserving of this award than Jim Whittington. Jim is a leader of a nationwide grassroots movement fighting to restore earned health care for military retirees. While there are many grassroots leaders across the country who have been working together in this fight, it was Jim's persistence that led to the introduction of legislation that was enacted into law and went a long way towards fulfilling America's commitment to military retirees.

In the spring of 1999, Jim, along with his friend and fellow military retiree Floyd Sears, of Ocean Springs MS, organized a Military Retirees Summit in Laurel. Over 400 retirees from the southeastern United States gathered to explain to local officials, including me, how the United States government had broken its promise of lifetime health care for military retirees.

Having recently been elected to Congress, I had never confronted this issue before. I did not know about problems with military health care. Like many other Americans, I believed that our nation's veterans received priority health care. Until I attended the summit in Laurel, I did not know that military retirees, who served a career in service to the country, were not getting the level of health care that had been promised to them.

Since the founding of our Republic, recruits to the uniformed services were promised lifetime health care. They were told that health care would be provided for them and their families when they retired after a career in service. And for many years, they received quality health care when they retired. But over time, Congress changed the laws. The availability and quality of health care for many military retirees declined. For too many retirees, health care just wasn't there at all.

Jim Whittington is one of the most tenacious people I know, and it was his persistence that got me to agree to attend his summit. What I learned at that summit convinced me and others across the country to join the fight to make good on the "Broken Promise." If it wasn't for Jim Whittington, the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act would not have been introduced.

But, thanks to Jim, the bill was introduced in the fall of 1999, giving the grassroots a plat-

form on which to stand and challenge Congress to act. In just one year, Congress enacted Tricare for Life, which went a long way towards restoring the promise of lifetime health care and keeping faith with our nation's military retirees.

Tricare for Life—TFL—answered the prayers of thousands of military retirees and their families. Jim Whittington is one of those who benefit from TFL. But Jim knows that there are still thousands more military retirees and dependents who are not covered by TFL and still lack the level of health care they have earned. Jim unselfishly continues to be one of the grassroots leaders fighting to restore the health care promise for ALL military retirees.

TFL was the first big victory for the military retirees, but it will not be the last. Today there is a movement called the MRGRG—The Military Retirees Grassroots Group—that has no formal structure or membership. But there are thousands of them, connected by the Internet, who have combined their individual voices into one. Leaders of the MRGRG, including Jim, are circulating a "White Paper" throughout Congress that outlines the remaining promises waiting to be kept.

Jim Whittington has earned the respect of Americans across the country who know of his leadership in the fight to treat military veterans with the respect they deserve. But Jim is a humble man and knows he did not do this alone—far from it. He knows he shares this award with fellow retirees who cared enough to act.

But it is always up to somebody to take the first step. When Jim took that step—to organize the Laurel summit and convince his Congressman to attend—he did not know where it would lead. Today we know that Jim and the others of the MRGRG have set an example for all Americans. They have shown us that Democracy works—that Americans who combine their individual voices into one voice, loud and strong, can change things and restore justice where it is needed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute my friend Jim Whittington, who has set an example for all of us.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JAMES HENRY HAIGLER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of one of our Nation's Fallen Firefighters and one of my District's hometown heroes, Mr. James Henry Haigler. Mr. Haigler worked for ten years as a Driver with the Sanford Fire Department. He was one of the Sanford community's unique group of hometown heroes; the firefighters, law enforcement officers, and others who keep our streets safe, protect our families and possessions from fire, and are the first to respond to an emergency. Our hometown heroes put their lives on the line for each of us every day.

On January 19, 2001, the Sanford Fire Department lost one of its own heroes. James suffered heart failure just two hours after completing a 24-hour shift, leaving behind his wife Renee and his son Dustin. His loss was felt deeply in the department and in the community. As a firefighter, James displayed selfless